

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert paragraphs the following paragraphs after paragraph [0022]:

FIG. 5 is a side elevational view of a balloon dilatation catheter with the embodiment of FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2 with a butt-weld engagement between the outer shaft and the coating.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following paragraph:

In at least one embodiment of the present invention a catheter assembly, indicated generally at 10 in FIG. 2, is assembled without employing a mid-shaft tube and/or a core wire such as previously described. The catheter assembly may be a balloon catheter 10, as illustrated in Fig. 5.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following paragraph:

Coating 14 may be applied to the external surface 16 of at least a portion of the hypotube 12, or may be a tubular member of material disposed thereabout. In some embodiments the hypotube 12 is at least partially constructed from one or more non-thermoplastic polymers and/or metal. In the embodiment shown, at least one side, of the distal end, of the hypotube 12 is engaged to the interior surface 22 of the distal outer shaft 20, in an overlapping configuration. The coating 14 is welded or otherwise bonded to the distal outer shaft 20. The coating 14 may form a continuous polymeric layer of material with the distal outer shaft 20. In some embodiments the distal outer shaft 20 radially overlaps at least a portion of the

coating 14, or alternatively the coating 14 radially overlaps at least a portion of the distal outer shaft 20. In at least one embodiment an end-to-end (butt-weld) engagement configuration (48) is provided between the outer shaft 20 and the coating 14, as shown in Fig. 6.

Please insert the following paragraph between paragraphs [0028] and [0029]:

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the catheter assembly 10 has three engagement regions 42, 44 and 46. The engagement of the hypotube 12 and the distal outer shaft 20 forms a first engagement region 42. The engagement of the hypotube 12 and the inner shaft 24 forms a second engagement region 44. The engagement of the inner shaft 24 and the outer shaft 20 forms a third engagement region 46.